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WW II-era USS Razorback to Visit Key West on Homecoming Tour

Sub Present at Signing of Japan Peace Treaty; Earned Decorations in Vietnam War

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (June 9, 2004) – The **USS Razorback (SS-394)**, the only submarine to have earned battle ribbons in World War II and in Vietnam, will make the first U.S. stop of its long homecoming journey on Sunday, June 13, at Key West, Fla.

A welcome ceremony for the USS Razorback is set for 2:30 p.m. at East Quay Wall at the Truman Waterfront Property. The sub will be open for tours Sunday, June 13, from 3 p.m.-7 p.m.

The ship is being returned to the United States from Istanbul, Turkey. After its service for the United States, the ship was decommissioned in 1970 and transferred to the Turkish Navy and served for nearly 30 years as the TCG Murat Reis.

"This ship is an important piece of our history and we are looking forward to welcoming the USS Razorback on its return to the United States," said North Little Rock Mayor **Patrick Henry Hays**, who was instrumental in negotiating the ship's return. "We hope to teach future generations of the commitment and sacrifices of its crews in the name of freedom."

The USS Razorback will be the centerpiece of the planned Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum at North Little Rock, Ark. The sub was named for a South Pacific whale species, however, the Razorback hog is the mascot of the University of Arkansas, making it a perfect match for its retirement in the Natural State.

The USS Razorback began its trip from Turkey on May 5. It stopped at Gibraltar before beginning its long Atlantic crossing. Key West will be its first U.S. stop.

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The remainder of the ship's schedule:

- June 19 – New Orleans, Julius Street Wharf, 2 p.m.
- July 16 – Tichnor, Ark., Montgomery Point Lock and Dam dedication, time to be determined.
- July 18 – North Little Rock, Riverfront Park, time to be determined.

Commissioned in 1944, the USS Razorback is one of the two surviving submarines present in Tokyo Bay at the signing of the peace treaty that ended World War II. She earned a Vietnam Service Medal in 1965.

USS Razorback statistics:

- Balao Class Sub
- Displacement: 1,526 tons surfaced, 2424 tons submerged
- Length: 311 feet
- Beam: 27 feet, 3 inches
- Draft: 16 feet, 10 inches
- Speed: 20 knots surfaced, 9 knots submerged

About the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum

Planners are raising the \$15 million needed to build the museum. The Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum will be located near the I-30 bridge on the Arkansas River. Tax-deductible donations for the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum can be made to the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum Association, City Hall, PO Box 5757, North Little Rock, AR 72119-5757.

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